

***Brachiaria villosa* var. *barbata* Bor (Poaceae) – a new record for India**

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Abstract

Brachiaria villosa var. *barbata* Bor (Poaceae) is reported for the first time from India. A detailed description and illustrations is provided.

INTRODUCTION

During the survey of grasses of Maharashtra State, the authors collected an interesting species of *Brachiaria* from Devdari hills in Satara district and identified it as *Brachiaria villosa* var. *barbata*, an endemic of Nepal.

The genus *Brachiaria* Griseb. has about 100 species (Clayton & Renvoize, 1989; Watson & Dallwitz, 1994) distributed in tropics of the Old World. It has 18 species in India (Moulik, 1997). *Brachiaria villosa* var. *barbata* Bor is so far known only from Nepal (Bor, 1960). As this species has not been recorded from India, a detailed description and illustration is provided to facilitate easy identification.

***Brachiaria villosa* (Lamk.) A. Camus in Lecomte, Fl. Gen. de l'Indochine 7: 433. 1922, var. *barbata* Bor, Grass. Burma, Ceylon, India & Pakistan 286. 1960 (Fig. 1).**

Annuals. Culms erect or geniculate, 9-25 cm tall; nodes bearded. Leaves: sheaths densely hirsute with tuberculate hairs, 1.2-3.7 cm long; ligule ciliate; blades ovate-oblong, 0.8-4 x 0.3-1.2 cm, densely hirsute on both surfaces, margins undulate, scaberulous, apex subacute. Racemes 2-7, erect or ascending, 0.3-1.2 cm long; rachis slender, triquetrous, flexuous, hairy. Pedicels short, with long hairs. Spikelets broadly ovate-oblong, 2-2.5 mm long. Lower glume thinly membranous, broadly ovate-elliptic, 0.7-1 mm long, obscurely nerved, hispid on the back, apex rounded. Upper glume membranous, elliptic, 1.2-1.8 mm long, gibbous, 3-5-nerved, hispid, with subapical fringe of bristle like hairs on the back, apex mucronulate. Lower lemma membranous, ovate-oblong, 1.5-2 mm long, 3-5-nerved, hispid, with subapical fringe

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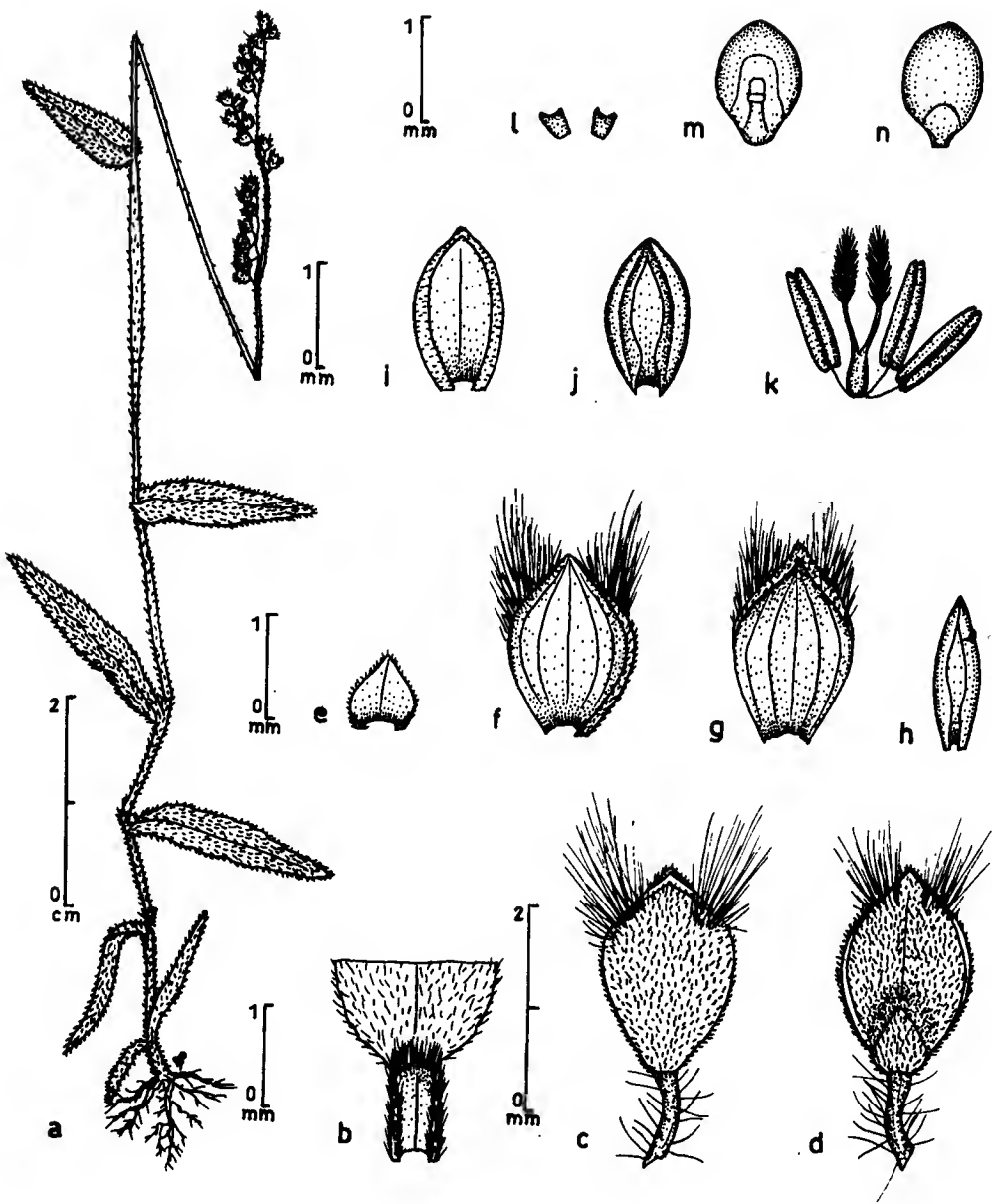


Fig. 1. *Brachiaria villosa* var. *barbata* Bor: a. Habit; b. Ligule; c. & d. Spikelets; e. Lower glume; f. Upper glume; g. Lower lemma; h. Palea; i. Upper lemma; j. Palea; k. Stamens & pistil; l. Lodicules; m. & n. Caryopsis.

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of bristle-like hairs on the back, 2-keeled, apex mucronate. Palea hyaline, oblong, 1.4-1.8 mm long, 2-keeled, margins inflexed, apex truncate. Upper lemma coriaceous, broadly elliptic-oblong, 1.4-1.8 mm long, 5-nerved, glabrous, minutely rugulose, apex acute. Palea chartaceous, broadly elliptic-oblong, 1.4-1.8 mm long, margins inflexed, apex acute. Lodicules 2. Stamens 3; anthers 0.8-1 mm long. Ovary linear, 0.5 mm long. Grain globose, 1.1 x 0.8 mm.

Flowering and fruiting: July-September.

Distribution: So far reported only from Nepal and the present collection is a record of its extended distribution.

Specimen examined: INDIA, Maharashtra, Satara district, Devdari, 25 Aug 2000, Salunkhe 8991 (SUK).

Acknowledgements

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